

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4, 7-90 and 23-25 currently appear in this application. The Office Action of March 18, 2005, has been carefully studied. These claims define novel and unobvious subject matter under Sections 102 and 103 of 35 U.S.C., and therefore should be allowed. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration, entry of the present amendment, and formal allowance of the claims.

**Interview Summary**

Applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiner Yao for the courtesies extended during the telephonic interview of July 12, 2005. During that interview, claims 1 and 23, the independent claims in the application, were discussed.

Applicant agreed to limit the claims to controlling an air-laid mixture of thermobonding fibers so that there is a gradual increase in concentration of thermobonding fibers around a surface of a finished batt. Examiner Yao informed the undersigned that this would distinguish over the prior art of record, although a new search will be conducted directed to the new limitations.

**Art Rejections**

Claims 1-4, 7-9 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior

art in view of Bair, either LeVan or Frankosky et al.,  
Kennette et al and optionally further in view of Makoui.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1  
and 23 have been amended to recite that there is a gradual  
increase of the concentration of thermobonding fibers nearer  
the surface of the batt formed. Support for this amendment  
can be found in the specification as filed at paragraph 31.  
None of the cited art includes this feature, and there is no  
suggestion in any of the cited art to include this feature.

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suggestion in any of the cited art to include this feature.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being  
unpatentable over the references set forth *supra* as applied to  
claim 23, and further in view of Walter et al.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 1  
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In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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